

HONORING ANDY FLICK

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the distinguished career of Andy Flick, who spent 14 years in service to the United States House of Representatives, before departing recently to serve as Legislative Director to the Vice President at the White House.

Andy's career in the House pre-dates my own. He started in 2009 in former Congressman Ike Skelton's office before serving in senior roles with Representatives COSTA, MOULTON, and TRONE. As the Vice Chair for Policy of the New Democrat Coalition (New Dems), I feel especially fortunate that Andy led the New Dems during the 117th Congress and through much of the 118th Congress. Throughout my time working with him, I have observed that Andy is an incredibly dedicated, thoughtful, and creative staffer and leader.

Under Andy's leadership, the New Dems fully leveraged Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, and control of the White House to pass historic legislation, including the Inflation Reduction Act to lower health care and energy costs and the Chips and Science Act to bolster American competitiveness in a globalized world. I am particularly indebted to Andy for the role that he and the New Dems played in helping me realize the RECOMPETE Act, which passed as a provision of the Chips and Science Act. The RECOMPETE Pilot Program aims to create renewed economic opportunity in communities that have faced persistent economic distress. I grew up in one of these communities, and it inspired me to run for Congress. I can leave Congress more easily after my current term ends, knowing the RECOMPETE Act was brought to life, in large part because of Andy and the New Dems' tireless work and skill.

During the 118th Congress, where Democrats have been in the minority, Andy embraced the Coalition's unique ability to bridge the partisan divide and make progress on the most pressing challenges facing our country. This includes the role New Dems played in helping avert a fiscal crisis by securing the votes needed to raise the debt ceiling and orienting policy task forces around critical legislation. Countless New Dems have Andy to thank for seeing their policy priorities move forward despite tough odds.

Throughout his time in working in the legislative branch, Andy left his fingerprints on policies that have improved the lives of the American people. Even more importantly, he has recruited, mentored, and helped develop countless staffers who want to be like him—with serious legislative acumen and a steadfast commitment to public service. Andy's sharp wit, humor, and unique ability to think of and then pass sound policy ideas are already sorely missed. On behalf of my office and the New Dems, I thank Andy for the legacy he has left on the Hill and for all the remarkable public service he has delivered and will continue to deliver at the White House.

We are so proud of him and will be rooting for him, always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my votes on December 6, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 698, NAY on Roll Call No. 699, YEA on Roll Call No. 700, NAY on Roll Call No. 701, YEA on Roll Call No. 702, NAY on Roll Call No. 703 and YEA on Roll Call No. 704.

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROME CAPITOL THEATRE

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the Capitol Theatre in Rome, NY as it celebrates its 95th Anniversary this year.

The idea for the Capitol Theatre was conceived by brothers Myron J. and Joseph S. Kallet. Kallet Theaters, Inc., of Oneida, New York partnered with the M.E. Commerford Amusement Company of Scranton, Pennsylvania to open the theater on December 10, 1928. It was designed by Leon H. Lempert, Jr. and was the first building in the city of Rome, New York, to be built as a movie house and the first to offer "talking pictures". The opening program included the feature film *Lilac Time*, starring Colleen Moore and Gary Cooper.

Until 1974, the Capitol Theatre operated as a first-run movie house, and then for the next eleven years was used on occasion for special events. The facility was officially re-opened on the 57th anniversary of the theater, December 10, 1985, by Capitol Civic Center, Inc., a non-profit formed by volunteers.

In November of 2020, a major restoration project was begun to restore the Capital interior to its 1939 period. In July of 2021, the restored theater reopened, and in January of 2022 the renovation project was completed with a recreation of the marquee and blade sign. The theater still hosts its 1928 original installation Möller theater organ which was restored in 2002 and has been used since then to accompany silent movies.

Today, Capitol Theatre auditorium is part of the Capitol Arts Complex which is the centerpiece of the "Rome Arts District". Live stage plays, dance shows, classic movies and special events are all hosted at the Complex. Also included in the Complex is the two screen Cinema Capitol which offers first-run independent movies. The Capitol Arts Complex currently hosts over 900 performances annually.

It is truly an honor, on behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District, to congratulate the Capitol Theatre on the occasion of its 95th Anniversary. I wish them continued success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING BLACK RIVER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Black River Technical College on its 50th Anniversary as a two-year degree conferring institution serving the First Congressional District of Arkansas.

Since its founding, Black River Technical College has played a major role in the professional development of the citizens of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri by offering a wide range of programs, such as associate degrees, technical certificates, certificates of proficiency, and adult and continuing education courses. Located on two campuses in Pocahontas and Paragould, Arkansas, with an enrollment of approximately 2,500 students, Black River Technical College has a vision to "lead [the] community in learning and economic development." BRTC's staff and faculty members are engaged in our community and have truly made a difference in the lives of thousands of people in my part of the country. The First District is better because of their service.

Congratulations to Black River Technical College. I wish them many more years as a successful, integral member of the Northeast Arkansas community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I regrettably missed votes on December 6 and 7, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted accordingly:

YEA on Roll Call Number 698;
NAY on Roll Call Number 699;
YEA on Roll Call Number 700;
NAY on Roll Call Number 701;
YEA on Roll Call Number 702;
NAY on Roll Call Number 703;
YEA on Roll Call Number 704;
NAY on Roll Call Number 705; and
NAY on Roll Call Number 706.

HONORING MR. FRANK J. THORNTON

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield Supervisor and Chairman of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors.

Since his election to the Henrico County Board of Supervisors in 1995, Mr. Thornton has worked hard to build bridges and bring the Henrico community together. His historic election is a clear example of his perseverance and hard work.

Throughout his career, Mr. Thornton has worked hard to empower all in Henrico. In the

classroom, he provided guidance and instruction to students as a professor of French literature. As a community leader, he has been a driver for change—challenging the status quo time and again. His poise in leadership and fearless advocacy have been the hallmarks of his career. Mr. Thornton's passion for Henrico County and his dedication to the fight for equity and representation have left a permanent mark on the community.

For many years, Mr. Thornton served as the only Democrat and Black member on the board. That is no longer the case today, thanks in part to Mr. Thornton's tenacity and ability to inspire change. He has become a role model for many and has set a great example for up-and-coming leaders.

Throughout his 27-year tenure as Fairfield Supervisor, he has been elected as Chairman of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors multiple times. Through his work, he has embraced change and highlighted Henrico's diversity. He has also been a strong advocate for the development of community resources—such as the Frank J. Thornton YMCA Aquatic Center and the extension of the bus line to Short Pump. Through his work, he has helped Henrico become more connected, vibrant, and active. A patient and dedicated representative, Mr. Thornton has kept his promise of "Making Henrico Better for the Future."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Mr. Frank J. Thornton for his outstanding service on behalf of Henrico County as Fairfield Supervisor, and in wishing him the best as he retires.

CONGRATULATING MAGGIE BURN OWENS FOR 35 YEARS AT THE CALHOUN COUNTY YMCA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maggie Burn Owens for her 35 years of service at the YMCA of Calhoun County.

She currently serves as president and CEO of the YMCA of Calhoun County where 3,586 people benefit each year from the programs and services offered.

Under her leadership, the YMCA of Calhoun County has undergone extensive efforts to boost financial assistance in order to grow the membership of the organization.

The YMCA was able to offer \$129,177 in financial assistance last year to children, individuals and families who might otherwise not have been able to participate in YMCA programs or memberships.

We are extremely proud of Maggie and her ongoing commitment to the Calhoun County community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Maggie Burn Owens for her 35 years of service to the YMCA of Calhoun County.

HONORING FRAN DUVALL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Fran Duvall, who joined my office when I first came to Congress. Fran had worked for my predecessor Sidney R. Yates, who recommended that I hire Fran because of her many talents and her ability to work as a team member.

Fran was kind, sweet, patient, competent and diligent in setting up our operations. She set an early example for my young staff on how to be an effective staffer on Capitol Hill. She was integral in my seamless transition to the House of Representatives and I, like my staff, relied on her guidance. But more importantly, she was progressive, welcoming, and inclusive before that was fashionable. Fran represented the very best of this Institution.

I send my deepest condolences to her family and gratitude for sharing her with Team Schakowsky and the House of Representatives. I include in the RECORD the following obituary, published in the December 5th Washington Post, describing her life of achievement.

FRAN DUVALL

(1 January 1935—14 May 2022)

The family of Frances Eloise Duvall honors her memory during this holiday season.

Ms. Duvall was born 1 January 1935 at home in Landover, Maryland and died 14 May 2022 in Fairfax, Virginia. She was the ninth and last child of Anna Louise (née Bennett) and George Paul Duvall and grew up in the nation's capital. After graduating from Immaculate Conception Academy in 1952, Ms. Duvall worked as a typist for the Navy Department, as a secretary with the University of Maryland Engineering Department and later with the Civil Service Commission.

Ms. Duvall met Keith Daggy in the early 1950s while both were members of the Bladensburg Skate Club. They were married in 1956 and, a year later, moved to Waynesboro, VA. There they had three children, Teresa, Roger, and Mary Helen, who did not survive a premature birth. Ms. Duvall and Mr. Daggy divorced in 1976, at which time Ms. Duvall began working full-time at the University of Virginia while studying at Mary Baldwin College (now University) in Staunton, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Business Management in 1981.

Ms. Duvall then moved back to Washington, DC, where she worked as the office manager for Representative Sidney R. Yates, IL, and his successor, Jan Schakowsky, until Ms. Duvall's retirement in 2001.

The final chapter of Ms. Duvall's life was written at Greenspring Retirement Community in Springfield, VA, where she lived from 2003 until her death. She was deeply involved in various aspects of the community, particularly the Greenspring Players, the theatre troupe at the retirement village. Ms. Duvall served in many capacities: chair, co-chair, director, producer, prompter, computer support, publicity, props and cast parties, as well as upgrading and clarifying policies and procedures for the Players. Ms. Duvall also created and maintained a scholarship program, awarding scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in all aspects of theatre.

Additionally, Ms. Duvall hosted various shows on the Village's internal television station and assisted in producing the sta-

tion's programs on presidential libraries. She also created sign language classes at the Village.

Ms. Duvall was a life-long Democrat and vigorously defended equal rights. She volunteered on Election Day to ensure that residents could cast their vote.

After attending many memorial services to honor friends who had passed, Ms. Duvall decided, in January 2020, to celebrate her 85th birthday with beautiful music performed by her children and grandchildren and amusing, heartfelt anecdotes from her friends and loved ones. Ms. Duvall leaves behind her daughter, Teresa, and granddaughter Zoe, as well as her son, Roger, his wife Kimberlea, and their children, Maximilian and Celia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on December 6, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 698; NAY on Roll Call No. 699; YEA on Roll Call No. 700; NAY on Roll Call No. 701; YEA on Roll Call No. 702; NAY on Roll Call No. 703; and YEA on Roll Call No. 704.

RECOGNIZING HARRY L. CHANDLER

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, an esteemed member of our community in western Massachusetts, and a national hero. Born and raised in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Harry L. Chandler is one of the few remaining members of the Greatest Generation. Now 102 years old, Harry will be returning to Pearl Harbor to commemorate the day that will live in infamy.

Harry's military service began when he chose to enlist in the United States Navy in 1939, right before completing his high school education. Enlisting as a hospital corpsman, his service in the Navy during World War II showcases his courage and commitment to our country, bravely facing the perils of war. His experiences during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, are etched in our nation's history. Harry's actions that day, rescuing fellow sailors amidst chaos and witnessing the tragic fate of the USS *Arizona* and USS *Utah*, are a stark reminder of the price of freedom and the valor of those who defend it.

This week, as Harry returns to Pearl Harbor, he is not just revisiting a site of historical significance; he is returning as a living testament to the bravery of those who served alongside him. Accompanied by his granddaughter, Kelli Fahey, and her husband, Ron Mahaffee, Harry will partake in numerous commemorative ceremonies, including the profound honor of saluting a battleship during the USS *Arizona* memorial service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Harry L. Chandler, not only as a veteran of World War II, but as a pillar of strength, resilience, and humility. His legacy is